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Item 66 of the provisional agenda*
Implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations

Letter dated 9 August 2001 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On 8 August 2001, the Gambia and a very few other countries addressed a letter (A/56/193) to you, requesting that a supplementary item entitled "Need to examine the exceptional international situation pertaining to the Republic of China on Taiwan, to ensure that the fundamental right of its twenty-three million people to participate in the work and activities of the United Nations is fully respected" be inscribed on the agenda of the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly. In this regard and upon instruction of my Government, I hereby solemnly state our position, as follows:

1. By raising the so-called issue of "Taiwan's participation in the United Nations" to the General Assembly this year, the above-mentioned countries attempt once again to create "two Chinas" or "one China, one Taiwan" in this Organization. Such an act is not only a flagrant violation of the purposes and principles of the *Charter of the United Nations* and a serious distortion of the nature of this Organization but also a brazen challenge to the one-China principle widely recognized by the international community. It has severely encroached upon China's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and grossly interfered in China's internal affairs. The Chinese Government strongly condemns and firmly opposes it and requests these countries to immediately correct this illegal act that has obstructed the lofty cause of China's peaceful reunification.

2. There is but one China in the world and Taiwan has been a part of China's territory since antiquity. Both the 1943 *Cairo Declaration* and the 1945 *Potsdam Proclamation* have reaffirmed in unequivocal terms China's sovereignty over Taiwan in international law. To date, more than 160 countries in the world have diplomatic relations with China. It is, therefore, an indisputable objectivity and legal fact widely acknowledged by the international community that there is only one China in the world, Taiwan is an inseparable part of China's territory, and the Government of the People's Republic of China is the sole legal Government representing the whole of China.

* A/56/150.

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3. In 1971, at its twenty-sixth session, the United Nations General Assembly adopted, by an overwhelming majority, the historic resolution 2758 (XXVI), which has solved once and for all, in political, legal and procedural terms, the issue of China's representation in the United Nations. As of the day when the legitimate rights of the People's Republic of China were restored at the United Nations, the Government of the People's Republic of China rightfully represents all Chinese, including our compatriots in Taiwan, in the United Nations and its subsidiary bodies. This has fully safeguarded the Organization's principle of universality. There is simply no such issue as the so-called "Taiwan's representation at the United Nations".

4. The United Nations is an intergovernmental international organization composed of sovereign States. As a part of China, Taiwan is not eligible to participate, in whatever name and under whatever pretext, in the work or activities of the United Nations or its specialized agencies. The General Committees of the successive sessions of the General Assembly since 1993 have all flatly refused to include in the agenda of the General Assembly the so-called issue of Taiwan's "participation" in the United Nations. This fully demonstrates that to raise in whatever form the so-called issue of Taiwan's "participation" in the United Nations will constitute a serious violation of the purposes and principles of the *Charter of the United Nations* as well as General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). Although this year's proposal by a small number of countries has come out in a new disguise and "gift-wrapping", its nature has not changed in the least and it is doomed to fail as before.

5. The question of Taiwan is purely an internal matter of China and a question for the Chinese people themselves to solve. It brooks no interference from outside. No one in the world cares more about the future and interest of the 23 million Chinese compatriots in Taiwan than the Chinese Government and people. To solve the question of Taiwan and realize reunification of the motherland, the late Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping came up with the creative concept of "peaceful reunification and one country, two systems", which has become a basic State policy of China. President Jiang Zemin has also put forward *Eight-point Propositions on the Development of Cross-Straits Relations and the Promotion of the Reunification of the Motherland*. All these policies and propositions have taken into account the paramount interest of national development and the long-term interests of the entire Chinese population. They have also fully accommodated and helped protect the fundamental interests of our compatriots in Taiwan and Taiwan's need for development. That is why they have been warmly embraced by all Chinese, including our compatriots in Taiwan, and well received by the whole international community. The smooth returns of Hong Kong and Macao successively have testified to the great success of the policy of "one country, two systems". We firmly believe that on the basis of this policy, the question of Taiwan will come to an appropriate solution eventually.

6. To solve the question of Taiwan and realize the complete reunification of the motherland at any early date conforms to not only the fundamental interests but also the common aspiration of the entire Chinese people. The one-China principle provides the basis for the peaceful and stable development of relations between the two sides of the Taiwan Straits. The Chinese Government has consistently maintained its position that peaceful reunification of the motherland should be realized through equal dialogue between the two sides of the Taiwan Straits on the

basis of the one-China principle. We are willing to enter into dialogue with all political parties, all organizations and people from all circles in Taiwan on the question of China's reunification so long as they advocate the one-China principle. It is absolutely possible to find through consultation ways to resolve the political differences between the two sides peacefully. If the Taiwan authorities really have the sincerity to get this question solved and help maintain regional peace and security, they should unequivocally accept the one-China principle, admit in unmistakable terms that they themselves are Chinese and pledge explicitly that they will pursue the goal of reunification of the motherland and substantiate their words with real action. However, despite a few so-called goodwill gestures since the beginning of this year, the Taiwan authorities have always stuck to an evasive and ambiguous attitude towards the one-China principle, which lies at the heart of the question of Taiwan, clung to the so-called "patience over haste" policy on the development of relations across the Taiwan Straits, put obstacles in the way of trade, cultural exchange and movement of personnel between the two sides and attempted to continue their separatist moves against the motherland and create "two Chinas" or "one China, one Taiwan" within the United Nations system under the cloak of "democracy", "human rights" and "economic development". Such separatist moves by the Taiwan authorities are the source of tension in the Taiwan Straits. And the paper submitted by the above-mentioned handful of countries will only serve to add fuel to the separatist moves of the Taiwan authorities, undermine the lofty cause of China's reunification and jeopardize peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region and the world at large. The Chinese Government firmly opposes this.

7. China attaches importance to its relations with all States Members of the United Nations and is willing to develop friendly relations with all countries in the world on the basis of the principles of mutual respect for State sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit and peaceful coexistence. China has never done anything harmful to the interests of the above-mentioned small number of countries, but time and again, what they have been doing regarding the question of Taiwan has undermined the fundamental national interests of China and hurt the feelings of the Chinese people. We hope that these countries will get a clear understanding of the situation and conform to the tide of history. We hope that they will abide by the *Charter of the United Nations* and relevant General Assembly resolutions, such as resolution 2758 (XXVI), adopt the position that is shared by the vast majority of States Members of the United Nations on this question and avoid being deceived and taken advantage of any more by the Taiwan authorities. We appreciate the position of the great number of States Members of the United Nations in abiding by the one-China principle and opposing "Taiwan independence", "two Chinas", "one China, one Taiwan" and "Taiwan's participation" in international organizations composed of only sovereign States. We have every reason to believe that in our just cause of safeguarding State sovereignty and territorial integrity, the Chinese Government and people will be able to continue to count on the Governments and peoples of the great number of States Members of the United Nations for their understanding and support.

I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated as an official document of the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly, under item 66 of the provisional agenda.

(*Signed*) **Wang** Yingfan
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of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations